



Winter 2022

SilverLining

Nevada Talking Book Services

Eligibility

Persons unable to read or use print materials as a result of a temporary or permanent visual or physical limitation

Talking Book Services

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Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.
Closed State
Holidays

The Surprising Afterlife of the C-1 Cassette Player

The last NLS produced cassette machine rolled off the production line in 2007; the last NLS cassette book followed a few years later. The digital future had come.

Why, nearly 15 years later, are C-1 cassette players a hot commodity on the black market? Because they offer functionality that no commercially produced player has and unexpected appeal to experimental musicians.

To decrease the number of cassettes per title, NLS used a slower format for cassette tapes and recorded at 15/16 ips with four monaural tracks per cassette, allowing each cassette to hold up to six hours of recorded material.

The players allowed users to choose between 1 7/8 ips and 15/16 ips, so patrons could also play their own cassettes on these same players.

Today's digital machine uses a digital signal processing algorithm to speed up and slow down sound versus the cassette book era analog method. Ambient and low-fi music aficionados prize the unique distortions created through those analog methods. Add in the ability to alter tones with the flick of a slider and the side control switch designed for four-sided NLS tapes allowing them to be played backwards, and you have a machine that can twist and alter music in ways its creators never imagines. It even has an auxiliary input port to feed sound in from other sources.

Though we no longer have cassette players to loan, they are a tribute to the ingenuity of NLS engineers.

From NLS' News, October-December 2021, Vol. 53, No. 4

New Book Club Offered

Please join us in reading and discussing H.G. Wells' science fiction classic *War of the Worlds*! Originally published in 1897, *War of the Worlds* has maintained a timeless essence; it has sparked countless imaginations and inspired dozens of other books. We will meet via telephone conference on Wednesday, February 16th at 2 p.m. Call in and enjoy an afternoon cup of tea as we discuss a Victorian Era Martian invasion. For more information about the club, and to sign up, contact Nevada Talking Book Services 775-684-3354 and ask for Tyler.

Donations and Thank You

We wish to thank all who have made donations to this program in the past year. These funds will be used to provide services not funded by the annual library budget; they will be used to enhance the recording program to benefit all who use this program.

We also wish to thank those who sent in thank you notes and letters of support in the last year. Our staff enjoy reading them and their motivational capabilities. Additionally, they are anonymously shared in our annual report as examples of the program's positive impact.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to this program, please address your check to Nevada Talking Book Services and mail it to 100 North Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701. We will acknowledge your gift with a thank you letter and a receipt that can be used for tax purposes.

If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-922-9334.

Bookshelf Feature Review

To help navigate through the multiple books, each cartridge has an audio index of titles you can access while in bookshelf mode. Each cartridge begins with instructions on how to use the bookshelf option to navigate between titles on the cartridge.

The basic instructions are as follows: after inserting the book into the machine, press and hold the green rectangular play/stop button until the machine announces "bookshelf."

While in bookshelf mode, use the FF (fast forward) button, to the right of the play/stop button, to move forward in the list of books; use the RW (rewind) button, to the left of the play/stop button, to move backward through the list of books. When you hear the title announced you want to read, push the green rectangular play/stop button.

Use bookshelf each time you want to review the titles on the cartridge and to choose the one to read next.

Accessible Technology Podcast Directory

Patrons interested in podcasts dedicated to accessible technology may find the Top Tech Tidbits directory useful. The directory is available at <https://www.toptechtidbits.com/blind-and-visually-impaired-technology-podcast-directory.html>. A game and listserv directory are also available here.

New Nevada Recordings:***Close Ups of the High Sierra******DBC13370***

By: Norman Clyde and Wynne Benti

Narrated by Don Scott

Published here for the first time is a selection of Norman Clyde's own writings about his journeys into the remote backcountry of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Of special note, his rate of first ascents far surpassed those of John Muir, Clarence King and William Brewer combined. Additionally, he was often called upon to find downed planes and lost climbers and did so with a tremendous rate of success. 1998

Haunted Nevada***DBC13353***

By Janice Oberding

Narrated by Vilia Natchez

Nevada may be one of the most haunted states in the United States, according to this book. Some of the Silver State's most bizarre and creepy stories of paranormal activity include Las Vegas's Flamingo Hotel, the Brewery Arts Center in Carson City, the haunted Goldfield Hotel, the Mizpah hotel in Tonopah, and apparitions of Marilyn Monroe at Cal Neva Resort in Lake Tahoe. Some violence 2001

The Interior West: A Fire Survey***DBC13366***

By: Stephen J. Pyne

Narrated by Kris Moe

Through thoughtful framing and lively essays, fire historian Stephen J. Pyne offers the first scientific inquiry into landscape fire in the interior west of Nevada, Utah, and western Colorado. Relevance of the region to the national fire scene is included. 2017

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Nevada: From Boys to Men***DBC13335***

By Renee Corona Kolvet and Victoria Ford

Narrated by Melinda Artz

This is the first comprehensive history of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Nevada, a program designed to help the nation get back on its feet and of the "boys" who did so much to restore Nevada's lands and resources. The book is based on extensive research in private manuscript collections, unpublished memoirs, newspapers, inspectors' reports, government documents and other sources. 2006

Book Reviews by Philip Cooney

Title: The Paris Seamstress

Author: Natasha Lester

Book#: DB92413

The audience for this story is historical fiction buffs who want a personal viewpoint on World War II and the American fashion industry. And if they like a bit of romance along with it, this is for them.

The author weaves a tale that toggles between 1940's Europe and 2015 America. Estelle flees Paris after she becomes unwittingly involved in a spy ring. She sails to New York City to make her way in the fashion industry, find her twin sister (they were separated at birth) and the love of her life.

Fabianne attempts to make a life for herself in modern Australia as a curator and avoid inheriting her grandmother's (Estelle) fashion design house. Both women face challenges in their separate time periods. Both set out on a voyage of self-discovery which brings them into contact with the love relationship romances are known for. And both succeed, mostly, in life.

Estelle seems to go from misunderstanding to misunderstanding in her professional and romantic life. The main cause of these stem from her insistence on speaking her mind in the vast majority of situations. Fabianne is more reserved and languishes below her potential in her professional and romantic life as a result. Tragedy motivates both to find their better selves in their own time.

I enjoyed the story. I was able to understand and empathize with both characters. I felt some of the depth of their losses and peaks of their wins. The author portrays women's lack of control over their own lives during the 1940's, and the claiming of that control by 2015 though they still have a long way to go, baby. The author sets a realistic scene in both timeframes. Her descriptions seem accurate historically from what I have read about the 1940's and what I lived in 2015. I would recommend giving it a read if you like "girl makes good" stories. (Sort of the gender equivalent of Sinclair Lewis for guys.)

One point that came up for me is that in most romances, problems between the lovers is caused by one party making a unilateral decision based on inaccurate information to leave the other. The refusal to communicate between them on something that greatly affects them both results in loss of time, of happiness, and sometimes of life. It shows the power of the word not spoken.

Title: The State Counsellor
Author: Boris Akunin
Book #: DB91688

The audience for this book is detective story lovers who like a helping of historical fiction.

The story revolves around two figures, a state operative and a revolutionary. It is set in late 19th century Russia. Unfolding events place it around 1895. It starts with a murder under a false identity. Then our two main characters start on a cat-and-mouse game with the role of cat switching between them frequently. Add political intrigue and a few love interests and you have something Ian Fleming would proudly call his own.

Both main characters are well developed as are their love interests. I found many more characters empathetic. Though the hidden “bad guy” becomes predictable two thirds of the way through the book, most of the plot twists catch the reader thinking, “how does so-and-so get out of this one?” Also, I have read a few books covering this time frame and the historical settings and actions of “offstage” characters and figures are in line with the historical record.

I enjoyed the read. The translation managed to preserve the black humor that only Russian authors know how to write; sort of a surrender to the obvious futility of the struggle.

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